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IAMES by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and ſinguler Archbiſhops, Biſhops, Archdeacons, Deanes and their Officials, Parſons, Vicars, Curats, and to all ſpirituall perſons, and alſo to all Iuſtices of the peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Conſtables, Churchwardens, and Headboroughes, and alſo to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate, and to all other Our Officers, Miniſters, and ſubiects whatſoeuer they be aſwell within liberty as without, to whom theſe preſents ſhall come Greeting. Whereas We are crediblie giuen to vnderſtand by a certificate vnder the hands of Our right truſtie and right welbeloued Coſin, *William* Earle of Darbie, and of Our truſtie and welbeloued Subiects, *Cecyll Stafford* Knight, *Edmund Preſtwich*, *Edward Holland*, *Leonard Aſſhalde*, and *Oſwald Moſley* Eſquires, Iuſtices of the peace within Our County of Lancaſter, That Our poore ſubiect *Richard Briddocke* of Chetham within the pariſh of Manchester in Our ſayd County of Lancaſter, hath alwayes beene a man of honeſt life and conuerſation, and one that by his great painefulneſſe in his vocation, being a Blanchier or whiter of linnen cloth and yarne for hire, maintained himſelfe, his wife, and ſeuen ſmall children in good credit and reputation, but now he is fallen into great want and pouerty, by reaſon of a cruell fire happening on the tenth day of Ianuary laſt paſt about twelue of the clocke of the ſame day, which conſumed and burnt almoſt all his dwelling houſe, and certaine linnen yarne of other ſ therein, amounting to the value of two hundred pounds or more, to the vtter vndoing of Our ſayd poore ſubiect, he being liable by the law to anſwer the ſayd yarne or the thereof vnto the Owners, by whom it was committed vnto him to be whited as aforeſaid; whoſe poore and weake eſtate We much pity, and haue thought good vpon the ble requeſt of Our foreſayd Iuſtices made vnto Vs on his behalfe, to commend the ſame vnto the charitable conſideration of all Our louing and well diſpoſed ſubiects, within certaine Counties heereafter mentioned, not doubting but that all good Chriſtians well weighing the premiſſes, and hauing a fellow feeling one of anothers miſeries, wilbe readie willing to extend their liberall contributions towards the reliefe and comfort of their poore diſtreſſed Brother in this his great neceſſitie. Know ye therefore that of Our eſpeciall grace and princely compaſſion We haue giuen and granted, and by theſe Our letters Patents doe giue and grant vnto Our ſaid poore ſubiect *Richard Briddocke*, and to his ſufficient deputies the bearer or bearers heereof, full power, licence and authoritie, to aske, gather, receiue and take the almes and charitable beneuolence of all Our louing ſubiects whatſoeuer, inhabiting within Our Counties of Lancaſter and Yorke, the Biſhopricke of Durham, and in Our Counties of Darbie, Stafford, and Nottingham, with Our Citie of Yorke, Durham, and Lichfield, and in Our Towne and Countie of Kingſtone vpon Hull, and in all other Cities, Townes corporate, priuiledged places, pariſhes, villages, and in all other places whatſoeuer within Our ſaid Counties, and not elſewhere: for and towards the recouerie of his loſſe, and the reliefe and maintenance of himſelfe, his wife and children. Wherefore We will and command you and euery of you, that at ſuch time or times as the ſaid *Richard Briddocke*, or his Deputie or Deputies the bearer or bearers hereof, ſhall come and repayre to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske and receiue the gratuities and charitable beneuolence of Our ſayd ſubiects, quietly permit and ſuffer them ſo to doe, without any manner your lettes or contradictions. And you the ſaid Parſons, Vicars, and Curats, for the better ſtirring vp of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publiſh and declare the tenor of theſe Our letters patents vnto Our ſaid ſubiects, vpon ſome Sabboth day, when as the ſame ſhall be tendered vnto you, exhorting and perſwading them to extend their liberall contributions in ſo good and charitable a deed. And you the Churchwardens of euery Pariſh where ſuch collection is to be made as aforeſayd, to collect and gather the almes and charitable beneuolence of all Our louing ſubiects, aſwell ſtrangers as others. And what ſhall be by you ſo gathered to be put in a Minister and your ſelues endorſed on the backeſide of the Briefes of theſe Our letters patents, and the ſumme or ſummes of money ſo gathered, and endorſed, together with the Briefes to deliuer to the bearer or bearers of theſe Our Letters patents, and to no other perſon, when as thereunto you ſhall be required. And laſtly whereas We are informed of the great abuſe which is now crept in amongſt theſe poore people who ſet their licences vnto ſome other perſon whereby mens charitie goeth not the right way but vnto them that deſerue it leaſt, that from henceforth Our will and pleaſure is, that if it may appeare vnto you or any of you, that the ſaid *Richard Briddocke* hath contracted any bargaine, ſale, or ſhall make ſale of theſe Our letters Patents, whereby the benefits ſhall paſſe from him to any other perſon, that thereupon theſe Our letters Patents ſhall be voyd and of no effect, any Statute, Law, Ordinance or prouiſion heeretofore made to the contrarie in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

In witneſſe whereof, We haue cauſed theſe Our Letters to be made Patents for the ſpace of one whole yeere next after the date heereof to endure. Witneſſe Our ſelfe at Weſtminſter the thirtieth day of April, in the twentieth yeere of Our Raigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the fiue and fiftieth.

STEVVARD.

SOC. ANTIQVA. LOND. 1717

God ſaue the King.

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